

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL NO. 5423

AN ACT CONCERNING DISSECTION CHOICE

FOR THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE

March 7, 2010

Dear Education Committee:

As an educator of graphic design and digital photography teaching in the Connecticut State and Community College system for the past few years I am writing to you to express my support for the An Act Concerning Dissection Choice (HB5423). I have always believed education is important in empowering the youth of today, but I also believe compassionate choices are important for developing student growth.

In my coursework, graduate and undergraduate, I have never dissected or experimented on an animal, and I do not feel as though my education has suffered. There are computer based resources which are not only more humane, but are more economical, in depth and have the advantage of multiple uses. Replacing animal dissection with these resources will reduce the number of animals killed for unnecessary methods. These invasive methods of using animals are outdated and do not allow for students to be comfortable and respect animals.

HB5423 includes provisions that would allow the State Board of Education to assist in developing and distributing a new curriculum of humane education to allow respect animals deserve. Compassion and respect are two key roles we want our youth to understand and guide them through life. Schools are a key component in the developmental stages of future generation's behaviors, attitudes and function in society.

Please vote in favor of An Act Concerning Dissection Choice (HB5423) for you have a chance to make a difference. This bill would allow students with ethical, religious or other objections to harming animals to opt out of animal dissections and experiments in their classrooms. HB5423 would join Connecticut with 15 other states that have passed similar laws and resolutions that create more inclusive learning environments for students and encourage the integration of educationally-superior, humane learning methods in science curriculum.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
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